

What's New in the MPDC

SEPTEMBER 17, 2001

MPDC MOBILIZES IN RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS ON WORLD TRADE CENTER, PENTAGON

Following Tuesday's attacks, Mayor Williams declared a state of emergency in DC. Under that declaration, members of the DC National Guard were called out to assist the MPDC with traffic and crowd control. The state of emergency is still in effect.

dc.gov/mayor/state_emergency/index.shtm

Almost immediately after Tuesday morning's terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon, the MPDC mobilized its entire Department to help protect DC and assist with the investigation. The Department has been placed on a heightened state of alert, with patrols enhanced around MPDC buildings, other government facilities, District neighborhoods and other locations. All sworn members of the MPDC were recalled, and staffing at the Public Safety Communications Center was increased to handle an expected influx of 9-1-1 and non-emergency calls. All officers,

as well as essential civilian personnel, were assigned 12-hour shifts, with all days off canceled for these members. In addition, a contingent of MPDC members was deputized by federal authorities to assist with the investigation at the Pentagon. In addition to Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU) personnel assigned to help protect the crime scene, crime scene technicians and K-9 units were also dispatched to assist the FBI and Arlington County authorities. For more information, go to:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News)

MPDC GUARDS AGAINST RETALIATORY ACTS AGAINST DC'S ARAB-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Another focus of the MPDC's response to Tuesday's attacks was protecting DC's Arab-American residents and community institutions. Police details and special attention have been given to Arab-American institutions, businesses and individuals, some of which have received e-mail and telephone threats. Certain communities across the nation reported retaliatory incidents directed at Arab-Americans during the week. Individuals are reminded that DC's hate crimes law protects residents based on a number of factors, including race, color, religion, national origin and personal appearance. Get more information on DC's hate crimes law at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/other/hatecrimes.shtm

DC COMMUNITY CHIPS IN TO SUPPORT EFFORTS

Like its public safety partners, DC's general community responded to Tuesday's terrorist attacks with both generosity and assistance. Hundreds of DC-area residents lined up at local blood banks to donate blood or volunteered to assist rescue and recovery efforts at the Pentagon. Relief donations are being accepted by a number of organizations, and American flags are prominent throughout the city, including on Metro buses. While some people have called the MPDC to inquire about volunteer opportunities with the Department, the MPDC needs no specific volunteer assistance at this time. We ask residents to contribute in other ways, such as giving blood. For information on blood donations, call 1-800-GIVE LIFE or visit:

www.redcross.org

One other way in which residents can help police is by using the 9-1-1 emergency number for in-progress or life-threatening situations only. Report suspicious activity and other non-emergencies to 3-1-1, the MPDC's non-emergency number.
mpdc.dc.gov/info/phone/phone.shtm

CRIME DECREASE CONTINUES IN DC

Reports of serious crime in DC declined nearly 5 percent during the month of August, according to preliminary statistics compiled by the MPDC. Five of the eight major crime categories declined last month, when compared with August of 2000. There was, however, a nearly 20 percent increase in stolen vehicles for the month. Through the first eight months of the year, overall crime in DC is down 3.4 percent – homicides are down 26 percent – according to preliminary data. Robberies (9.2 percent) and motor vehicle thefts (2.2 percent) are the only crime types that have increased so far this year. View preliminary crime statistics – both citywide and by individual police district – at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats.shtm

Auto theft is often a crime of opportunity. Learn how you can reduce the risk of having your vehicle stolen by clicking on:
mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/autotheft.shtm

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV